

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 ACDA-07 /065 W
----- 002359

R 270637Z APR 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3090

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L B A G H D A D 0 5 6 1

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CURRENT TOPICS

IN MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICER ON APRIL 24, IBRAHIM AL-WALI,
FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) IRAQ APPRECIATED IRAN'S PROMPT ASSISTANCE IN FIGHTING THE FIRE
IN THE NORTH ROMAILA OIL FIELD. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FIRE
HAD BEEN CAUSED BY SABOTAGE.

B) SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD DECIDED TO RETURN TO BAGHDAD FROM JIDDA
AND CANCEL THE REST OF HIS GULF TRIP PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM
BAGHDAD. WALI CONCEDED THAT THERE "MAY HAVE BEEN" INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS ABOUT A POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN ONE OF THE
GULF STATES THAT HAD CAUSED HUSSEIN TO CANCEL THE GULF PORTION
OF HIS TRIP. IT WAS NO SECRET THAT HUSSEIN HAD ENEMIES.

C) WALI SAID THAT GOI AGREED WITH USG THAT LEBANON SHOULD NOT
BE PARTITIONED AND THAT LEBANESE SHOULD SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS

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WITHOUT OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERVENTION. IRAQ THOUGHT THAT SYRIAN
MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS UNHELPFUL AS IT TENDED TO FREEZE STATUS

QUO AND PREVENT LONG OVERDUE REFORMS OF LEBANON'S ARCHAIC POLITICAL STRUCTURE WHICH WERE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE PERMANENT STABILITY. FOR EXAMPLE, GOI DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A MODERN STATE SHOULD LAY DOWN RELIGIOUS QUALIFICATIONS FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS. PRINCIPAL OFFICER REPLIED THAT USG BELIEVED THAT A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM REQUIRED SOME BALANCE OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND THAT A SOLUTION THAT GAVE ONE SIDE ALL IT WANTED AND THE OTHER NOTHING WAS CERTAIN TO BE UNSTABLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BAGHDA00561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760160-0417
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760420/aaaaaqjh.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CURRENT TOPICS IN MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICER ON APRIL 24, IBRAHIM AL-WALI
TAGS: PFOR, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006